

Cp362.2
N87h

It Could Be Me

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A red-ink illustration of a man in a suit and glasses standing in a doorway, gesturing with his hand to refuse entry. A speech bubble above him says, "WE ARE SORRY, BUT THERE IS NO ROOM." Three people are waiting outside: a man in a hat, a man in a suit, and a woman sitting on a bench. The background shows a building with a sign that reads "STATE INSTITUTION".

WE ARE SORRY,
BUT THERE IS
NO ROOM.

MSL

No Better Than 17th Century Conditions

The State Hospitals Board of Control has done much to organize more completely the functions of the individual institutions. The board has been handicapped, however, by inadequate appropriations. This is shown by the conditions which today exist in the four state institutions. The quality of these institutions has been improved since the board began to function. Each of the hospitals has an excellent superintendent, who knows completely what is needed to make each institution a credit to the state. These men too have been handicapped by limited appropriations. There exists therefore, both good and bad conditions within the state hospitals. At Raleigh some wards are no better than those which existed in Bedlam in the seventeenth century. Ward S, for example, is so overcrowded that the beds practically touch one another. The walls are broken, only spotted with plaster, and the floors are of cold damp stone. There are two toilets and two bathtubs for seventy-five patients. During the day one untrained attendant looks after seventy-five violent patients. During favorable weather the patients are locked on a porch, where there are no toilet facilities; they excrete on the floor, and at any time one can witness the sight of one or more patients devouring their own excretia. Often these patients are completely unattended. Such conditions are in no way the fault of the hospital administration, for it is just as appalled by them as anyone. It simply does not have the funds to alter such conditions. There is only one graduate nurse available during the night for the entire Central Building, which houses about one thousand patients. On the other hand, good practices also exist within the institution—among them, the adoption of electric shock treatment and the organization of a social service department.

—An excerpt from an article by Dr. Maurice H. Greenhill, one of the outstanding Psychiatrists of the State, which appears in the January 1945 issue of the North Carolina Medical Journal.

IT COULD BE ME

WHO is on the waiting list to be admitted to a mental institution wherein there is no room.

WHO is already one of the 8,500 patients in our institutions in North Carolina.

WHO has forgotten the forgotten.

WHO is not my brother's keeper.

WHO doesn't bother to see the needs because they are too horrible.

WHO has been mistreated by an underpaid attendant.

WHO doesn't support or try to help North Carolina to be among the best in the care and treatment of the mentally sick and surpassed by none.

WHO would try to budget insanity, which cannot be done.

927116

WE HAVE

There are about 8,500 patients in the mental hospitals of North Carolina, as follows:

State Hospital at Morganton.....	2716
State Hospital at Raleigh.....	2467
State Hospital at Goldsboro.....	2535
Caswell Training School.....	814

There are approximately 1095 underpaid employees, consisting of Doctors, Nurses and Attendants to give treatment and care to these some 8,500 patients, as well as operating farms, power plants and laundries.

We have only 16 Doctors, which is about one Doctor to 531 patients.

We have only 4 Dentists.

We have only 5 Psychiatric Social Workers.

We have only 7 Occupational Theraputists.

We have 3 Laboratory Technicians.

We have *some* Hydrotherapy Units.

We have 1 Recreational Director.

We have *some* Recreational Facilities for the patients.

We have 1 Dietitian.

WE NEED

53
85
138

We need room for the following number of additional patients:

State Hospital at Morganton.....	1000
State Hospital at Raleigh.....	1500
State Hospital at Goldsboro.....	300
Caswell Training School.....	2500

We need 1783 employees, also nurses and attendants in the proportion of 1 to 10 patients, although the national recommended standard is 1 to 8.

We need 35 Doctors, which will give us one doctor to about 242 patients. The recommended standard is one doctor to 200 patients.

We need 6 Dentists, which will give us 1 dentist to 1416 patients, although the recommended standard is 1 dentist to 1000 patients.

We need 9 Psychiatric Social Workers.

We need 27 Occupational Theraputists.

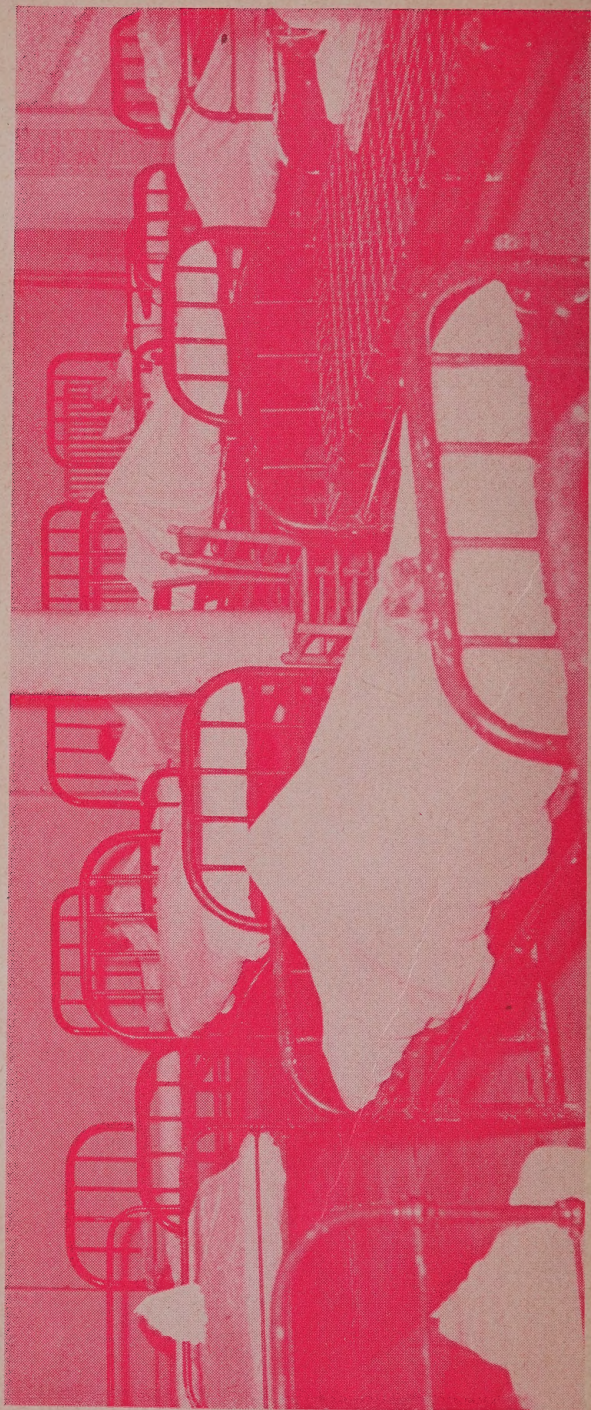
We need 6 Assistant Laboratory Technicians.

We need *more* Hydrotherapy Units.

We need 2 Recreational Directors.

We need *many more* Recreational Facilities for the patients.

We need 3 Dietitians.



INADEQUATE FACILITIES

What good is **\$70,000,000.00** and poor health?

What good is it to build roads to a place wherein there is no room?

What good is education when it is not utilized to the fullest for the remedy, relief and benefit of the suffering?

**"IT COULD BE ME"
WHO WILL
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT!**



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